

Message Text

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54

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

DOT-00 DRC-01 /072 W

----- 036938

R 051100Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4785

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 2739

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BMEP, BR

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: SAO PAULO CIVIL AIRPORT

REF USDOC 14883; SAO PAULO 2277; RIO 4377

1. THE CONTROVERSY OVER LOCATION OF THE NEW SAO PAULO SUPER-SONIC AIRPORT HAS BROKEN OUT INTO THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AGAIN. AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, SOME GROUPS SUPPORT CUMBICA BKAS A SITE LOCATION FOR THE NEW AIRPORT WHILE OTHERS HAVE INSISTED THAT VIRACOPOS IS BY FAR THE BETTER LOCATION. IN RECENT MONTHS THIS CONTROVERSY HAS TAKEN POLITICAL OVERTONES WHICH MAY STILL NOT HAVE BEEN FULLY IRONED OUT.

2. ON NOVEMBER 24, THE PRESTIGIOUS O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO REPORTED THAT THE MINISTER OF AVIATION, BRIGADEIRO ARARIPE MACEDO, STATED DURING THE COURSE OF AN OFFICIAL FUNCTION IN RIO DE JANEIRO THE PREVIOUS DAY THAT THE NEW SAO PAULO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WOULD BE LOCATED AT CUMBICA. THE MINISTER WAS SAID TO HAVE ADDED THAT CONSTRUCTION COSTS WOULD BE BETWEEN 80 AND 100 MILLION DOLLARS, AND THAT CONSTRUCTION SHOULD START QUICKLY IN ORDER TO AVOID SATURATION OF FACILITIES AT THE SUPERSONIC AIRPORT, NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN RIO

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DE JANEIRO.

3. O ESTADO WENT ON TO STATE THAT BRIGADEIRO DELIO JARDIM DE MATTOS, COMMANDER OF THE 4TH AIR ZONE, SAO PAULO, WHEN TOLD OF THE MINISTER'S COMMENTS, CLAIMED THAT HE WAS NOT AWARE THAT CUMBICA HAD BEEN CHOSEN BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AS A DEFINITIVE SITE AND POINTED OUT THAT IN MARCH THIS YEAR THE MINISTRY OF AVIATION HAD DELEGATED TO THE SAO PAULO STATE GOVERNMENT THE DECISION AS TO THE SITE LOCATION. A WORKING GROUP HAD BEEN FORMED AND ACCORDING TO DELIO JARDIM THE RESULTS OF ITS STUDIES HAD NOT YET BEEN RELEASED.

4. ON NOVEMBER 27 THE LOCAL PRESS PUBLISHED THE TEXT OF A NOTE FROM THE MINISTRY OF AVIATION DENYING THAT BRIGADEIRO ARARIPE MACEDO HAD SAID THAT THE NEW SAO PAULO AIRPORT WOULD BE LOCATED AT CUMBICA. THE NOTE ADDED THAT THE MINISTRY OF AVIATION HAD TRANSFERRED RESPONSIBILITY FOR STUDIES ON AIRPORT SITE LOCATION TO THE SAO PAULO STATE GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE MINISTRY WAS NOT AWARE THAT THE STUDIES HAD BEEN COMPLETED. ONLY AFTER SUCH A STUDY HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE GOVERNOR OF SAO PAULO WOULD THE MINISTRY OF AVIATION LOOK INTO THE MATTER FURTHER.

5. BRIGADEIRO HELIO COSTA, PRESIDENT OF EMPRESA AREA DE INFRAESTRUTURA AEROPORTUARIA-INFRAERO HAS SINCE TOLD AN OFFICER OF CONGEN RIO THAT THE MINISTER IN FACT HAD NOT MADE THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO HIM BY O ESTADO AND THAT A DECISION ON THE SITE OF THE NEW AIRPORT (CUMBICA OR VIRACOPAS) WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE TAKEN UNTIL APRIL 1974. LOCAL AVIATION CONTACTS SHARE THIS ASSESSMENT, STATING THAT IT IS MOST UNLIKELY THAT ANY DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL AFTER THE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION NEXT MARCH.
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